

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [00027] with the following amended paragraph:

[00027] Structurally, the murine CRG-L2 protein (SEQ ID NO:2) contains 439 amino acids and has a predicted molecular weight of about 47.5 kDA. Using the Simple Modular Architecture Research Tool (available on the world wide web courtesy of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory - Heidelberg) (~~<http://smart.embl-heidelberg.de/>~~), it was determined that the murine CRG-L2 includes two collagen domains in the 5' region (corresponding to amino acids 29-88 and 89-149 of SEQ ID NO:2, respectively) and a large olfactomedin domain near the C-terminus (corresponding to amino acids 189-433 of SEQ ID NO:2). The human protein also contains two putative collagen domains and one olfactomedin domain at amino acids 27-85, 86-145, and 177-395 of SEQ ID NO:4, respectively. Olfactomedin-related proteins are secreted glycoproteins having conserved C terminal motifs. It is anticipated that CRG-L2 can be secreted into the blood and an increase in blood CRG-L2 level over normal levels is diagnostic of cancer and preneoplastic development. Preferably, the diagnostic blood CRG-L2 level is set to be at least about 5%, more preferably at least about 10%, and most preferably at least about 25% over a normal level.

Please replace paragraph [00050] with the following amended paragraph:

[00050] The human sequence for CRG-L2 was pieced together by using the UCSC Human Genome Working Draft (available on the world wide web courtesy of the Center for Biomolecular Science & Engineering at the University of California - Santa Cruz) (~~<http://genome.ucsc.edu/>~~) to align the sequences. The resulting cDNA sequence is presented as SEQ ID NO:3 and the putative amino acid sequence is presented as SEQ ID NO:4. Using the Wilbur-Lipman DNA alignment method the mouse and human open reading frame (ORF) are found to be 82.4% identical. Using the Blosum62 alignment method the mouse and human predicted protein products are found to be 76% identical. Like the murine protein, the human protein contains two putative collagen domains and one olfactomedin domain, located at amino acids 27-85, 86-145, and 177-395 of SEQ ID NO:4, respectively.

Please replace paragraph [00051] with the following amended paragraph:

[00051] *CRG-L2* is localized within chromosome 15q21.2 of the human genome and a similar intron/exon structure is suggested by comparing the mouse cDNA to the human genome. In the human genome data base at NCBI, clone Hs15_10351 (Genbank Accession No. NT_010194), a contig from human chromosome 15, has areas of significant homology to the mouse cDNA sequences. Because this region of the human genome has not been finished in NCBI, the UCSC Human Genome Working Draft (~~<http://genome.ucsc.edu/>~~) was used to align the sequences in piecing together the human sequence for CRG-L2. First, exons of the human CRG-L2 gene were identified by aligning the mouse CRG-L2 ORF to the human genome using the NBLAST program. Next, the identified exons were spliced together and putative introns were excised to form SEQ ID NO:3. SEQ ID NO:4 shows a predicted polypeptide sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:3. The skilled artisan will appreciate the possibility for some variation in the polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences arising from uncertainty at putative splice sites.